

# BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

The first week of December has been filled with the generosity and spirit of Christmas. Firstly, it was a pleasure to see many of you at the **Beaminster Christmas Lights** last Friday, and to raise much needed funds for our BSPTA. Secondly, thanks to the support of **Groves Nursery**, we were delighted to be the recipient of a Christmas Tree sponsored by **Donovan Atyeo**. This is now providing a cheerful welcome in Reception and our thanks go to both these local companies.

A group of our Year 11 students very kindly gave up their time on Sunday to support **Mountjoy Special School** with their fundraising. Seth, Avie, Warren, Jacob and Eliza performed an engaging range of music that added extra sparkle to the day helping Mountjoy to raise nearly £3000, and also led them to receive offers of other events!

Thursday was a very busy day for our new Head of Music, Mrs Edwards, with both the Year 7 and 8 Carol Service in the afternoon and our **Community Carol Service** in the evening. As always, both were wonderful occasions with the lovely Beaminster St Mary's Church providing a perfect backdrop and the congregations basking in the quality of performances.

Meanwhile, also on Thursday afternoon, Quantum Theatre company delivered an outstanding performance of **A Christmas Carol** for Year 10 and Year 11 students as part of their GCSE Literature studies. Their dynamic and engaging adaptation brought Dickens' classic story to life, captivating the audience with creative staging, powerful acting, and a deep understanding of the text. The production not only entertained but also enriched students' understanding of the novella's themes, characters, and historical context, providing an invaluable resource for their studies not just from an English perspective, but from a Drama one too.

Today we enjoyed seeing many different designs for **Christmas Jumper Day!** As well as an opportunity to express the holiday spirit, much needed funds were raised for charitable causes. Please also remember that the **BSPTA Raffle** is currently running and you should have received an envelope with tickets sent home with your child earlier in the week – though this may be buried at the bottom of their bag! We would appreciate all returns by 9am on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup> ready for the draw for the lucky winners

We really appreciated such a positive attendance at the **Year 13 Consultation Evening** on Wednesday at the Sir John Colfox Academy, and thank you for the important conversations that took place.

Our A Level Drama and Theatre students enjoyed a professional workshop with **Kat Mary Productions** on Monday morning, preparing a performance of 'Metamorphosis' which they performed to Beaminster and Colfox GCSE Drama students after break. Their commitment and skill was impressive, with all of the students learning new performance skills and techniques.

On Tuesday, **BAe Systems** provided a very lively and interesting presentation to Year 7 and 8 students on electricity in our lives. During a fast-paced hour the team covered many aspects of science and technology, including future career routes.

On the sporting front, a mixed team of **Hockey players** from Years 8, 9 and 10 played their first tournament fixture against an experienced Sir John Colfox Academy side on Thursday. After conceding a couple of early goals the team grew in confidence and settled into the game well, disrupting the Colfox attack and showing some promising attacking phases. This cohesion developed in the second half and was deservedly rewarded with a fantastic team goal to close the score to 2-1. With inter-house hockey matches approaching this term, students are encouraged to attend **training on Thursdays** after school. There will also be more hockey fixtures after Christmas.

**Durham University** is undertaking research to look at how parents and caregivers cope with the challenges of supporting children who struggle to attend school due to anxiety or other emotional difficulties (commonly referred to as Emotionally-Based School Avoidance or EBSA). If you have experienced these challenges, and would be prepared to be involved in this study, please see the attached flyer or use this direct link:  
[https://durhamuniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4MJkxSbYM3GyUqq](https://durhamuniversity.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4MJkxSbYM3GyUqq)

Looking ahead, Year 11 have their **GCSE Mock Results Day** on Wednesday and we look forward to speaking with many of you at the **Year 9 Consultation Evening** later that day (the booking system is now open until Wednesday lunchtime), and then **Year 12 Art** students are off to Bath to see the Holbourne and independent art galleries on Thursday.

If you weren't able to attend the Community Carol Service, I would highly recommend our **Christmas Concert** on Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm in the school Hall. There will be a rich range of musical styles from across the ages, with something for everyone!

This week's **cyber safety information** sheet about social media scams is attached.

Finally, please do remember that tonight is the **BSPTA's popular Bingo night** in the Hall from 6.30pm, with eyes down at 7pm – enjoy!

Mr Hales

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